

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of image processing comprising the steps of:

receiving image data of an image with character  
5 images on a background image;

extracting areas in correspondence to the  
character images from the image data;

generating character code data based on the  
extracted areas in the image data;

10 changing the image data to replace the character  
image with the background image; and

storing the changed image data and the character  
code data along with a relationship between them.

2. A method of image processing comprising the steps  
15 of:

converting character image data in image data to  
character code data; and

complementing the character image data based on  
image data around the character image data.

20 3. A method of image processing comprising the steps  
of:

converting character image data in image data to  
character code data;

25 complementing the character image data based on  
image data around the character image data; and

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storing the character code data and the image data including the complemented character image data along with a relationship between them.

4. An image processor comprising:

5 a reader which reads a document to provide image data thereof;

a converter which determines character code data of character image data in correspondence to character image in the image data;

10 an acquiring device which determines position data on a position in the character image data converted to character code data in the image data;

15 a corrector which changes the character image data to the same as a color of an image around the character image; and

a storage device which stores the character code data and the image data including the complemented character image data along with a relationship between them.

5. The image processor according to claim 4, wherein  
20 said acquiring section further determines font and font size based on the character image data in correspondence to the character image in the image data.

6. The image processor according to claim 4, further comprising a processor which generates print data for  
25 printing the document image, based on the character code

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7. An image processor which converts character image data in image data to character code data comprising:

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    a converter which converts the extracted character
image data to character code data;

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a synthesizer which synthesizes the character code data with the image data from which the character image is deleted.

9. The image processor according to claim 7, wherein said converter does not convert a character image data to a character code data when an area of the character image data has color change.

10. The image processor according to claim 7, wherein said extractor extracts character image data character by character.

11. The image processor according to claim 7, wherein

said extractor extracts the character image data in the unit of word.

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